

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (currently amended): An image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, comprising:
a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data,
wherein said developing step includes first and second modes, wherein, in the first mode ~~develops~~ the input image data is developed a ~~plurality~~ number of times equal to the number of color image output apparatus, [[by]] using a color processing condition corresponding to each of the plurality of color image output apparatus, and wherein, in the second mode, ~~develops~~ the input image data is developed [[by]] using an optional color processing condition and outputs a result obtained in said developing step to the plurality of color image output apparatus.

2. (original): An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the optional color processing condition is a color processing condition corresponding to one of the plurality of color image output apparatus.

3. (original): An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the optional color processing condition is a color processing condition corresponding to a

combination of the plurality of color image output apparatus.

4. (original): An image processing method according to claim 3, wherein the optional color processing condition is average values of color processing conditions corresponding to the plurality of color image output apparatus.

5. (original): An image processing method according to claim 3, further comprising a distributing process of distributing the input job to the plurality of color image output apparatus, wherein the optional color processing condition is determined by performing a weighing process of the color processing condition corresponding to each of the color image output apparatus in accordance with a distribution condition of said distributing process.

6. (currently amended): An image processing apparatus for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, comprising:

means for developing input image data into bit map image data; and

selecting means for selecting either a first mode or a second mode in said

~~developing~~ means for developing,

wherein the first mode develops the input image data a plurality of times by using a color processing condition corresponding to each of the plurality of color image output apparatus, and wherein the second mode develops the input image data by using an

optional color processing condition and outputs a result obtained by said ~~developing~~ means for developing to the plurality of color image output apparatus.

7. (currently amended): A storage medium storing a program for realizing an image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, the program comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data, said developing step providing a first mode and a second mode,

wherein the first mode develops the input image data a plurality of times by using a color processing condition corresponding to each of the plurality of color image output apparatus, and wherein the second mode develops the input image data by using an optional color processing condition and outputs a result obtained in said developing step to the plurality of color image output apparatus.

8. (currently amended): An image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color-image output apparatus, comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data for a first color-image output apparatus; and

a converting step of converting the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus into bit map image data for a second color-image output apparatus,

wherein the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus

developed in said developing step is transferred to the first color_image output apparatus, and wherein the bit map image data for the second color_image output apparatus converted in said converting step is transferred to the second color_image output apparatus.

9. (currently amended): An image processing method according to claim 8, wherein the plurality of color_image output apparatus are of the same type, and said developing step ~~performs~~ includes performing a color matching process by using profiles corresponding to the type of the plurality of color_image output apparatus, and wherein said converting step ~~performs~~ includes performing a conversion matching gradation characteristics of the first and second color_image output apparatus.

10. (currently amended): An image processing method according to claim 9, wherein the gradation characteristics of the first color_image output apparatus are calibrated by a calibration process.

11. (currently amended): An image processing method according to claim 8, wherein said developing step ~~performs~~ includes performing a color adjustment process corresponding to the first color_image output apparatus and a gradation correction process matching the first color_image output apparatus.

12. (currently amended): An image processing apparatus for processing an

input job in parallel by a plurality of color_image output apparatus, comprising:

developing means for developing input image data into bit map image data for a first color_image output apparatus; and

converting means for converting the bit map image data for the first color_image output apparatus into bit map image data for a second color_image output apparatus,

wherein the bit map image data for the first color_image output apparatus developed by said developing means is transferred to the first color_image output apparatus, and wherein the bit map image data for the second color_image output apparatus converted by said converting means step is transferred to the second color_image output apparatus.

13. (currently amended): A storage medium storing a program for realizing an image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color_image output apparatus, the program comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data for a first color_image output apparatus; and

a converting step of converting the bit map image data for the first color_image output apparatus into bit map image data for a second color_image output apparatus,

wherein the bit map image data for the first color_image output apparatus developed by said developing function is transferred to the first color_image output apparatus, and wherein the bit map image data for the second color_image output apparatus converted in said converting step is transferred to the second color_image output apparatus.